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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/468,437	06/06/1995	TAKEO HODA	3408/589	5230

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HUY THANH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	08/468,437	HO DA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	HUY T NGUYEN	2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 September 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 20-22,31-34 and 40-51 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 20-22,31-34 and 40-51 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____

19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

20) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 20-22,33,34 and 40-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/r use the invention.

The specification does not describe a second memory which receive image information from a buffer and directly receives the image information from the image pickup device vis connected to both the first connection and second connection as now recited in claim 20,40,43 and 45.(See Fig. 4).

The specification fails to describe a first memory contain a IC card as now being recited in claims 21 and 43. It is noted that the specification teaches that the memory that stored the image information from a buffer is an IC card (See Fig. 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 20-30, 33, 34, 43-44 and 47-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi view of Sasaki .

Regarding claims 20-30, 33, 34, 43-44 and 47-50 , Takahashi discloses a camera apparatus (Fig 1) comprising:

a camera body (10);

an image device (110);

a buffer memory (18) for storing image information and supplying image information to the second memory

first memory (40) and second memory (56 or 34) for storing image information from the buffer

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recording means and reproducing means (Fig. 1), columns 3-4) for recording and reproducing the image information (column 11 and column 15, lines 1-30);

changing means (22, 128) for changing between a first condition to store the image information in the first memory , and in a second condition to store image information in second memory (column 3). Takahashi further teaches that the first memory is a semiconductor memory but fails specifically teaches that the second memory is a semiconductor memory.

However, it is noted that employing a semiconductor memory device such as an IC card device which is detachable from a camera unit and the memory of SRAM kind for storing image signals and semiconductor memory reproducing means for reproducing image signals in order to reduce the size of the overall apparatus is well known in the art as taught by Sasaki et al (column 7, lines 60-65). Therefore, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Takahashi with Sasaki by providing the apparatus of Takahashi with the semiconductor memory of SRAM kind as taught by Sasaki et al as an alternate to the first memory or second memory of Takahashi apparatus in order to reduce the size of the overall apparatus.

Takahashi fails to teach means for detecting a memory condition to switch the storing of the image information on the second memory .

Sasaki teaches a camera that has a detecting mean for detecting a memory condition and for controlling the storing of the image information on a memory and generating an alarm to alert the user about condition of the memory comprising :

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detecting means (CPU 24) for detecting a available capacity of one of the first and second memory (column 9, lines 15-37) ; and

changing means (CPU) for selectively changing between a first condition for storing and holding the image signal from the image device in the first memory when the available capacity of the second memory is not sufficient for storing the images or storing the image signal from image device in the second memory when the capacity of the second memory is sufficient to store the image signal (column 9, lines 19-35) .

Sasaki further teaches means for generating a alarm when a the capacity of a memory is not sufficient to store the image (column 9, line 19-27).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Takahashi with Sasaki by using a detecting means as taught by Sasaki for detecting a memory condition and for control the storing of the image information on of the first memory and second memory to prevent error of storing the image information.

Regarding claim 33, Sasaki further teach a view finder (130) (Fig. 13, column 1, lines 35-63)

5. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Sasaki as applied to claims 20 above, further in view of Finelli.

Takahashi as modified with Sasaki fails to specifically teaches the use of a printer for the camera as recited in claim 36. However, it is noted that using a printer for making a copy of the image is well known in the art as taught by Finelli (See Finelli, Figs. 1 and 3). Therefore, it would obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Takahashi with Finelli by providing a printer as taught by Finelli into the camera

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apparatus of Takahashi as modified with Sasaki in order to provide a copy of the selected select image to the user.

6. Claims 40-42 and 45 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi view of Sasaki and Kinoshita (4,897,732).

Regarding claims 40-42 45 and 46, Takahashi as modified with Sasaki fails further teach means for reading image form the first and second memory (See Sasaki) but fails to teach a selecting means for supplying the image signal from the first memory or the second memory to the reproducing device . However, it is noted reading the using a selecting means for selecting the image for selecting and outputting the image signals from different sources to a reproduction device is well known in the art as taught by Kinoshita (Fig. 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Takahashi as modified with Sasaki by using a selecting means as taught by Kinoshita for selectively outputting the image from the first memory or second memory to the reproducing device for viewing the selected image .

Takahashi discloses a camera apparatus (Fig 1) comprising:

a camera body (10);

an image device (110);

a buffer memory (18) for storing image information and supplying image information to the second memory

first memory (40) and second memory (56 or 34) for storing image information from the buffer

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recording means and reproducing means (Fig. 1), columns 3-4) for recording and reproducing the image information (column 11 and column 15, lines 1-30);

changing means (22, 128) for changing between a first condition to store the image information in the first memory , and in a second condition to store image information in second memory (column 3). Takahashi further teaches that the first memory is a semiconductor memory but fails specifically teaches that the second memory is a semiconductor memory.

However, it is noted that employing a semiconductor memory device such as an IC card device which is detachable from a camera unit and the memory of SRAM kind for storing image signals and semiconductor memory reproducing means for reproducing image signals in order to reduce the size of the overall apparatus is well known in the art as taught by Sasaki et al (column 7, lines 60-65). Therefore, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Takahashi with Sasaki by providing the apparatus of Takahashi with the semiconductor memory of SRAM kind as taught by Sasaki et al as an alternate to the first memory or second memory of Takahashi apparatus in order to reduce the size of the overall apparatus.

Takahashi fails to teach means for detecting a memory condition to switch the storing of the image information on the second memory .

Sasaki teach a camera that has a detecting mean for detecting a memory condition and for controlling the storing of the image information on a memory and generating an alarm to alert the user about condition of the memory comprising :

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detecting means (CPU 24) for detecting a available capacity of one of the first and second memory (column 9, lines 15-37) ; and

changing means (CPU) for selectively changing between a first condition for storing and holding the image signal from the image device in the first memory when the available capacity of the second memory is not sufficient for storing the images or storing the image signal from image device in the second memory when the capacity of the second memory is sufficient to store the image signal (column 9, lines 19-35) .

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Takahashi with Sasaki by using a detecting means as taught by Sasaki for detecting a memory condition and for control the storing of the image information on of the first memory and second memory to prevent error of storing the image information.

Takahashi as modified with Sasaki further teaches a reproducing device (Fig. 11, Sasaki reference) for reproducing the image signal from second memory but fails to specifically teach that the reproduction device can selectively reproduce the image signal from the first memory . However, it is noted that using a reproduction device as an monitor to reproduce the image signal from a first memory and a second memory supplied thereto is well known in the art as taught by Kinoshita . Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Sasaki with Kinoshita by using a reproducing device as taught by Kinoshita for selectively reproducing the image signal from the first memory or the second memory .

Regarding claim 42, Sasaki further teach a view finder (130) (Fig. 13, column 1, lines 35-63)

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7. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Sasaki et al as applied to claims 20 above, further in view of Finelli.

Takahashi as modified with Sasaki fails to specifically teach the use of a printer for the camera as recited in claim 36. However, it is noted that using a printer for making a copy of the image is well known in the art as taught by Finelli (See Finelli, Figs. 1 and 3). Therefore, it would obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Takahashi with Finelli by providing a printer as taught by Finelli into the camera apparatus of Takahashi as modified with Sasaki in order to provide a copy of the selected select image to the user.

8. Claims 31, 37 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang in view of Sasaki et al.

Lang discloses an editing apparatus for comprising:
a first reception unit for receiving a memory (13)(column 6, lines 1-20).
a second reception unit (11) for receiving a memory device (column 3, lines 58 to column 4, line 16);
signal processing means (26) for expanding (restoring) the compressed image signal from the memory (column 9, lines 20-30);
recording and reading means for recording and reading the expanded image signal (restored image signal)on and from the memory device (11,23) (column 3, lines 58-62, column 9, lines 1-68).

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Lang further teaches that the memory is a semiconductor (SRAM)(column 6, lines 1-20), but fails to teach that the memory is a memory card, which is removable (column 6, lines 1-20).

However, it is noted that using a memory as a memory card for recording image signal and reception unit to enable the memory card can be removed from an apparatus is well known in the art as shown by Sasaki.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Lang with Sasaki by proving the memory of Lang as a memory card and a reception unit of the memory card as taught by Sasaki into the apparatus of Lang as an alternate memory of Lang and incorporate a reception unit to enable the memory card can be received and removed from the apparatus in order to reduce the size of the overall apparatus and easily replace the memory card.

Further for claim 31, Lang as modified with Sasaki teaches that the image information is produced from a camera (See Lang and Sasaki references).

Applicant argues that Lang and Sasaki fails to teach a memory card because DRAM is not suitable used with a memory card. In response, the use of DRAM as a memory card is well known in the art. Further is noted that claims do not specify the kind of the first memory card.

9. Claim 32 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang in view of Sasaki as applied to claim 31 above, and further in view of Watanabe.

Lang fails to specifically teach that the image signal is compressed in a DCT manner. However, it is noted that expanding a compressed image signal in a DCT

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manner is well known in the art as shown by Watanabe (Fig. 2, column 5, lines 27-35). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Lang with Watanabe by providing apparatus of Lang with a DCT compressing and expanding as taught by Watanabe to compress and expand the image signals in order to improve the quality of the image signal.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tojo et al discloses a camera which use two removable memories .

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUY T NGUYEN whose telephone number is (703) 305-4775. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM -6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on (703) 305-4929. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

H.N
December 3, 2001


HUY T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER